



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

February 19, 2014

The Honorable Margaret McIntosh, Chair
Members, Environmental Matters Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 834 – *Environment – Water Pollution Control - Penalty*

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment has reviewed House Bill 834, *Environment – Water Pollution Control – Penalty*, and would like to express our support for this bill.

SB 564 would double the administrative penalty MDE may impose for water pollution violations under 9-342 from a daily maximum of \$5,000 per day to \$10,000 per day and would also raise the administrative cap for cases from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Strengthening the State's laws with respect to fines and penalties associated with water pollution violations enhances the State's overall efforts to curb and reduce pollution to Maryland's waterways, tributaries, and the Chesapeake Bay through enhanced deterrence and potentially increasing the number of cases that addressed through administrative actions. This penalty increase would make the State's enforcement authority more consistent with federal authority under the Clean Water Act, which MDE is delegated to implement in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at Jeffrey.Fretwell@maryland.gov if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fretwell

cc: Robert M. Summers, Secretary
Jay G. Sakai, MDE, Director, Water Management Administration

